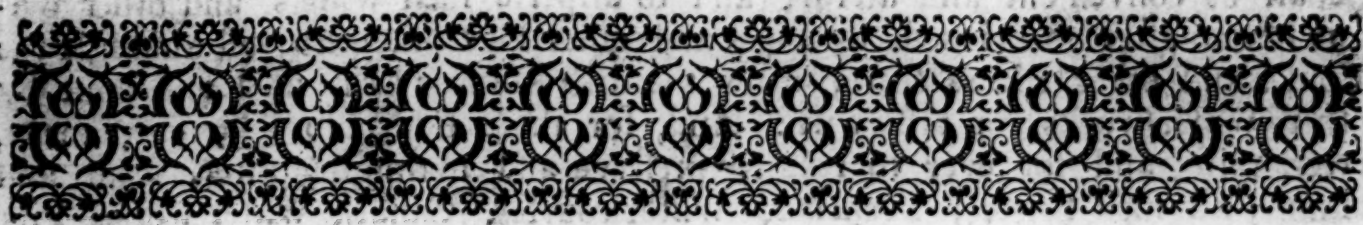


St Albans River Company
Water Works
[1720]



A BILL for Incorporating several Undertakers, for the better Accommodating the Inhabitants in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, and the Parts adjacent, with Water.



Whereas the Cities of London and Westminster having of late Years greatly increased both in Buildings and Inhabitants, Nothing is more necessary and convenient than a plentiful Supply of good and wholesome Water.

And whereas Thomas Acherley, Gent. The Honourable William Stuart, Esq; Sir Francis Dashwood, and other Adventurers, have undertaken, at their own Charges, to put in Practice, Carry on, and Effect, certain reasonable Methods and Means, found out and discovered by the said Thomas Acherley, whereby the Inhabitants of London, Westminster, and the Parts adjacent, may be better, more commodiously, and at moderate Rates supply'd with Water, if necessary Powers and Authorities were granted to the said Undertakers; who, as a Foundation for the said Work, have Subscribed a Joint-Stock for the Ends and Purposes aforesaid.

For the Encouragement therefore of so good and useful an Undertaking, at the Charges and Expences of such Persons as are and shall be Adventurers therein, and for Advancing (as far as may be) the Conveniencies and Accommodations of the said Cities of London and Westminster, and of the Parts lying about or near to those Places, and at the Petition of the said Adventurers;

May it Please Your MAJESTY,
That it may be Enacted; And be it Enacted, by the KING's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the said Undertakers and Proprietors of and in the said Joint-Stock, for the Time being, be, and at all Times from from henceforth for ever hereafter, shall be, and continue One Body Corporate and Politick, in Deed and in Name, by the Name of *The Governor and Company of St. Albans's Waters*; and by that Name shall have perpetual Succession: And that the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, shall, from Time to Time, have and enjoy, for ever, the Powers, Liberties and Privileges to begin, make and continue the Water-works and Water-courses, and do the Things herein-after mentioned; (that is to say) To take and convey so much, and such Parts of the Waters, of, or arising near the Rivers or Brooks, commonly called the Colne, Gade, Bulborne, Chesham Water, and the Lea, or the Sources or Sides thereof, in the several Counties of Hertford, Bedford and Bucks, to such One or more Place or Places near to London or Westminster, or any of the Villages or Parts lying about or near to the same, or to the New Water-courses herein-after mentioned,

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mentioned, for the Benefit and Accommodation of those Places as shall in that Behalf be convenient and useful; and to disperse such Waters, and other Waters herein-after mentioned, by Pipes and other Devices, unto and amongst the Houses and other Places there, after the like Manner as is used and done by other Water-works, or otherwise: And, for those Ends, to dig, cut, make, erect, raise, and for ever to repair, preserve and maintain, alter, scour and cleanse, all such Sewers, Trenches, Water-courses, Canals, Water-works, Pits, Dams, Banks, Walls, Arches, Sluices, Flood-gates, Engines, Pipes, Cisterns, Ponds, and other Works, Devices and Buildings, to be made of any sort of Materials, as shall in that Behalf be convenient or necessary, to conduct, draw, and convey to the Places aforesaid; and to use there all such Waters, for the Ends aforesaid, in, through, under or over any Grounds or Places whatsoever, of or belonging to the KING's Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, or to any Person or Persons Ecclesiastical or Temporal, Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, whatsoever; or to discharge or issue thereout such Waters; and to enlarge, clear and cleanse, from all or any Impediments, such Springs of Water as are now open; and to deepen and enlarge, alter, scour, cleanse and preserve the Gutters and Courses thereof; And also to search for, and find, and to open and preserve such other Springs of Water, in any Place whatsoever, without Consent (and with the Consent) of the Owners, in any Gardens, Orchards or Parks, from which the Waters thereof can or may be conveyed into the Rivers or Brooks before-mentioned, or into the said New Water-courses, as can or may be found; And to conduct, draw and convey the Waters of all and every, or any of the said Springs now open, and to be opened, by Gutters, Trenches, Water-courses, Water-works, Arches, Sewers, Pipes, or otherwise, in, through, under or over any Grounds or Places, as aforesaid, into the said Rivers, Brooks or Streams, towards the making good or re-supplying therein such Waters as shall be so drawn or conveyed therefrom, or to increase and bring more Water into the same Rivers or Streams, or into such New Water-courses, Trenches, or Cuts, as shall be made by the Authority of this Act; and, moreover, to make, have, and enjoy new Ponds, or other Receptacles for Water (if Occasion shall require) in convenient Places in or near to the said old Rivers, Streams or Brooks, or New Water-courses, for keeping or storing therein, Waters for any Uses convenient to the said Undertaking; And for ever to have and enjoy the whole Use, Management, Benefit and Profits of all such Waters, Water-courses and Water-works, and of all the Improvements thereof, that can by any Ways or Means be made or found out; and to do, and make use of all such Methods, Means, Devices and Things, as shall be convenient or necessary for the Ends aforesaid, or without which the said Undertaking cannot be effected or improved.

Provided always, and it is hereby Directed, That sufficient Waters of such Springs as are now open, shall be left for the Use of such Persons and Families as now make use thereof, and all others Claiming under them.

Provided also, That all Lords of Manors, and other Persons, having any Rights or Royalties of Fishing or Fowling, shall have the same or the like Rights and Royalties of Fishing and Fowling, in or upon such New Water-courses or Canals, within their respective Boundaries, as they had in the Rivers or Brooks from which such Waters shall be so drawn or conveyed away.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, shall, for ever, be obliged to make, repair, and maintain, at their own Charges, from Time to Time, convenient and substantial Bridges and Ways for the Passage of all Persons, and their Cattle and Carriages, over the said New Water-courses, in all Places where the same shall be necessary and convenient.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor and Company shall, at all Times, for ever, have and enjoy free Liberty of Way and Passage, not only to do and perform all the Matters and Things aforesaid; but also to make the most Advantage of the said Water-courses, as they may or can, with Men, Horses and Carts, and with all other Things in that Behalf useful and convenient.

And

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons shall, at any Time or Times, cast or put into such New Water-courses, any Dirt, Rubbish, Soil, Gravel, Stones, Dogs, Cats, Dead Carcasses, or Carrion, or any unwholsom Thing; nor shall wash or cleanse therein any Cloaths, Wooll, Hemp, Flax, or other noisom Thing; nor shall make or convey any Sink, Sewer, Ditch, Tan-house, Dying-house, or Seige, into the said New Water-courses, or to have any Fall into the same; nor shall do any other Annoyance thereto, whereby the Waters thereof shall or may be annoyed or damaged.

Provided and be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor and Company, before they meddle with, or dig, or alter the Lands, Inheritance, or Possession, of any Person or Persons, shall first Agree with the Owners, Proprietors, and Tenants thereof, for all such Grounds, Liberties, and other Things, as they shall desire to have, and intend to make Use of, for the Purposes aforesaid; and for the Damage, Loss, and Prejudice, which such Parties Interested shall or may sustain or receive in their Grounds, Mills, or other Rights or Interests, by reason of making and continuing such Water-courses, Water-works, and other the Matters aforesaid; and shall make and give them a reasonable Satisfaction and Recompence for the same.

And, for the better Effecting of the Premises, and putting in Execution the Powers hereby Granted; **Be it Enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That

shall be, and are hereby constituted and made Commissioners, for the Settling and finally Determining, in Manner herein-after mentioned, all Matters about which any Difference shall arise, between the said Governor and Company, and the Persons Interested, or in any sort Concern'd, in such Grounds, Waters, and other Things, as the said Governor and Company shall desire to have and make Use of, for the Purposes aforesaid, and who shall and may receive or sustain any Loss or Damage by reason thereof; and that they the said Commissioners, at their Meetings, or any or more (being the Majority) of them, are hereby Impowered and Authorized, and they shall have full Power and Authority, to Mediate between the said Governor and Company, and the Persons so Interested, or in any sort Concerned, as aforesaid; and for that End, to Summon together the Parties so Concern'd, and to Settle and Proportion what Satisfaction and Recompence every such Person and Persons, Ecclesiastical and Temporal, Bodies Politick and Corporate, shall have, for and in respect of the Premises.

And if there shall be any Person or Persons, Ecclesiastical or Temporal, Bodies Politick, Corporate, or Collegiate, that upon convenient Notice to them given, or left in Writing at the Dwelling-house or Place of Abode of such Person or Persons, or of the Head Officer or Officers of such Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, or at the House of the Tenant in Possession, of the Grounds, Waters, Mills, or other Things, so desired and intended to be had or made Use of, for the Purposes aforesaid, shall, by the Space of Days next after such Notice given, or left as aforesaid, decline such Mediation; or shall neglect or refuse to Treat; or having begun to Treat, shall not Agree with the said Governor and Company; or by reason of any Disability, by Nonage, Coverture, Special Tail, Restraint, or any other Impediment or Contingency, cannot Treat for themselves; or, by reason of Absence, are prevented from Treating, or cannot make such Agreement in the Premises as will be effectual and binding, That then, and in every such Case, the said Commissioners, or such or more

more of them, shall be and are hereby Authorized and Impowered, to Issue out their Warrants to the Sheriff of such County where the Grounds, Mills, Waters, or other Matters or Things to be enquired of, or compounded for, and desired and intended to be had and made Use of, for effecting or improving of the said Water-works, lye; thereby requiring him, to Impannel, Summon and Return, a Jury of Men, Qualified according to the Laws and Statutes of *England*, to be returned for Tryals of Issues, joyned in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, to appear before the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, at such Time and Place, as by such Warrant or Warrants shall be appointed; of whom the first Twelve appearing thereupon shall be Sworn in the usual Manner, unless the Commissioners shall see Cause to set any of them aside: And in Default of a sufficient Number of Jury-men appearing, who shall be Sworn, to make up the Number of Twelve, such Sheriff, or his Deputy, shall return other honest and indifferent Men of the Standers by; or that can be speedily procured, to attend that Service, to make up the said Jury Twelve; according to the common Course of Law; and all Parties Interested or Concerned, shall and may have their Lawful Challenges against any of the said Jury-men, when they come to be Sworn.

And the said Commissioners, or such or more of them, shall be, and are hereby Impowered to Order and Authorize (as they shall see Cause) the said Jury, to View the Places in Question, and to Administer an Oath to the said Jury, and also to Administer an Oath, and upon such Oath, to Examine all such Witnesses as shall be produced before them, to give Evidence; and where they shall see Cause, to Authorize such Jury, or a competent Number of them, to View the Places in Question, and to use all other Lawful Ways and Means, for such Juries better Information; and for that Purpose, to Summon any Person or Persons before them, as well those Interested as others, and to examine them, and to Administer an Oath, for the better Discovery of the Truth therein; which Jury of Twelve such Men, shall, upon their Oaths, Enquire of and Assess such Damages and Recompence as they shall think Just and Reasonable, to be awarded and paid to such Person and Persons so Concerned and Interested, as aforesaid, for such Grounds, Waters, Liberties, Matters or Things, as shall be so desired and intended to be had and made Use of, for the Purposes aforesaid, or for their respective Estates and Interests therein, or such Loss and Damage as they may thereby sustain; and shall divide and proportion the same between Landlords and Tenants, and others, having any particular Estates or Interests therein; in all which Assessments and Valuations, the Improvement by such Water-courses through Lands where Waters are wanted shall be considered; and the said Commissioners, or such or more of them, shall give Judgment for such Sums of Money as shall be so assessed, divided and proportioned, by such Juries.

And the said Commissioners shall, upon Oath, as aforesaid, and by all other lawful Ways and Means, Examine, Hear, and finally Order, Decree, and Determine, in a summary Way, all Manner of other Disputes, Controversies, Doubts, and Questions, which shall at any Time or Times happen or arise, between the said Governor and Company, and any Person or Persons whatsoever, touching or concerning any Matter or Thing relating to the aforesaid Premises, or any Part thereof, or to any Nuisance, Injuries, or Damages, done to such Water or New Water-courses, or Water-works, or Pipes, or any other the Premises, and to relieve therein the Party grieved; Which said Verdicts, Judgments, and other Decrees, Orders, and Determinations, and the Satisfaction, Value, and Recompence, so to be Agreed and Assessed, or Decreed, shall be conclusive and binding, to all Intents and Purposes, against all Persons and Parties whatsoever, claiming or to claim any Title or Interest in such Grounds, Waters, or other the Premises, or any Thing thereunto belonging or appertaining, in Possession, Reversion, or Remainder, Expectancy, or otherwise, as well the KING's Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, as other Persons absent or present, or contingent, Infants, Females Covert, Ecclesiastical Persons, Commoners, Bodies Politick, Corporate and Collegiate, and Persons under any other Disabilities whatsoever, and all

all other Persons whatsoever, and their Heirs, Successors, Executors and Administrators.

And it is hereby Directed, That the said Orders, Judgments, Verdicts, and Decrees, so made, shall be set down in Writing, in Parchment, under the Hands and Seals of the Commissioners that shall make the same, or any or more of them, at the least, and shall be first Transcribed and Registered, in a Book to be for that purpose kept, by the said Governor and Company, and afterwards shall be filed and kept with the Register or Registers, Master or Masters, of the Office for Registering Memorials of Deeds, and Conveyances of Lands, in the County of *Middlesex*; and that for filing and searching for, and making Copies thereof, the like Fees shall be paid, as are appointed to be paid by the *Act of Parliament* in that behalf made.

And be it further Enacted, That the said Orders, Judgments, and Decrees, or true Copies thereof, shall be taken and deemed sufficient Evidence and Proof in any Court of Law or Equity whatsoever.

And it is hereby Declared, That upon Payment of such Sum or Sums of Money, so Agreed on, or Assessed, (to wit) such Sums as shall belong to His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, in the Receipt of his Majesty's *Exchequer* at *Westminster*, commonly called *The Tellers Office*, and of such Sums as shall belong to others, to the Parties concerned; or in Case Tender thereof be made, at his or her or their Dwelling-house; or if they have no Dwelling-house, then at the House of the Tenant or Occupier of the Grounds or Hereditaments in Question; and if upon such Tender, as aforesaid, they refuse or shall not be willing to receive such Monies; or if they shall absent themselves, or cannot be found, then, upon Payment of such Monies into the Hands of such Person or Persons as the said Commissioners, or such or more of them, shall appoint, for the Use of the Parties for whose Benefit the same were so assessed and appointed, it shall then, and not before, be Lawful to and for the said Governor and Company, their Workmen and Servants, to enter and do all and every the Acts, Matters, and Things, in order to the effecting and improving, and continuing of the said Water-works, and Designs, aforesaid, according to, and in Pursuance of such Agreements, or final Orders, aforesaid, as the said Governor and Company shall think fit.

Provided always, and it is hereby Directed, That the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, shall and may appoint any convenient Times and Places, as they shall see Cause, for their Meeting; of which Meetings

Days Notice, or more, shall be given to all Persons Interested or Concerned, by Warrant from them the said Commissioners, or any of them, to be left at the Dwelling-house, or other usual Place of Abode, of the Parties so concerned; or if such Party cannot be found, to be served with such Notice; or if the *KING's* Majesty is the Owner of such Grounds or Hereditaments in Question, then to be left with the Tenant or Occupier of such Grounds or Matters in Question; or else other sufficient Notice thereof shall be given to the Parties concerned: And in Case such Parties so Interested or Concerned, as aforesaid, shall not appear; or, after Appearance, shall withdraw themselves, then such Commissioners and Jury shall and may, respectively, in the Presence or Absence of, and without the Appearance of the said Parties, proceed to ascertain, assess, order and decree, and determine, such Damages and Recompence as aforesaid; which Determination and Orders shall be Final, Valid and Effectual, notwithstanding such their Absence, or not being Heard: And this *Act* shall be sufficient to Indemnify as well the said Commissioners, as the said Governor and Company; and all Persons Employed and Authorized by them, or any of them, against the said Owners and Occupiers, and Parties Interested or Concerned, their Heirs, Successors, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

And the said Commissioners, or such or more of them, shall have Power to impose reasonable Fines, not exceeding on such Sheriffs, or their Deputies or Agents, as shall make Default in the Premises; or on any of the Persons that shall be Summoned and Returned in such Juries making Default of Appearance; or appearing, and refusing to be Sworn on the Jury; or

being Sworn, and refusing to give a Verdict, or committing any other wilful Misdemeanor ; which Fines shall be levied upon the Offender's Goods and Chattels ; And in Default thereof, then the Offender's Person shall and may be Arrested and Imprisoned, until he shall Pay the same, and the Charges of Levying thereof, by Virtue of their Warrants directed to the Constable, or other like Officer, who is hereby required to Execute the same, and to Pay such Fines, when Levied, to the said Governor and Company, towards their Carrying on of the said Undertaking.

Provided also, That if such Juries shall Assess such Sum or Sums of Money to be Paid for such Satisfaction or Recompence, as shall be apparently excessive, or too little, then the said Commissioners, or such or more of them, shall have Power, at the Instance of the Party grieved, to set aside such Assessment, and to award and order a new Inquiry to be made by another Jury ; which new Inquiry, and the Verdict and Judgment, or Decree, to be made thereupon, shall be Final and Conclusive to all Parties, without any Appeal therefrom.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Mills or Lands which may be damaged or purchased, as aforesaid, or any Interest therein, shall belong to any Corporation, or Body Politick, Ecclesiastical or Civil, or to any other Person or Persons whatsoever, who, by reason of any Disability, are not able or capable, by Law, to take and dispose of the several Sums which shall be due and payable for and in respect of their several Interests in such Mills or Lands ; in every such Case, it shall and may be Lawful, for the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, to Direct, Order and Decree, into whose Hands such Sums of Money shall be paid, for the Use of such Corporation, or Bodies Politick, and the respective Persons Interested therein ; Which several Sums of Money shall, with all convenient speed, be laid out, according to such Directions, as the said Commissioners, or any or more of them, shall, from Time to Time, give, for the purchasing other Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, in Places most convenient for the Parties Interested, their Heirs and Successors ; And as soon as proper Purchases can be found out, such new-bought Estates shall be Conveyed and Settled to the same Uses, Intents, and Purposes, as the former Estates were Settled ; And until such Settlements can be made, it shall and may be Lawful, for the said Commissioners, or any

or more of them, to place such Monies out at Interest, on Parliamentary Funds, or other good Securities ; which Interest shall, from Time to Time, as the same shall grow due, be paid to the several and respective Parties Interested in such Principal Sums.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That for the supplying the Number of the said Commissioners (in Case of Death, or of any of their Refusal to Act) the surviving or other Commissioners, or any or more of them, shall, as often as Occasion shall require, by an Instrument in Writing, under their respective Hands and Seals, Nominate and Appoint some other Person or Persons, having an Estate in Lands of *per Annum*, at the least, in the room and stead of him or them so Dying, or refusing to Act ; which said New Commissioner, or Commissioners, so Nominated and Appointed, shall from thenceforth have the like Power and Authority, in all Things relating to the said Water-works, and Matters aforesaid, as if he or they had been expressly named Commissioners in this Act ; And every such Instrument, and Nomination, of New Commissioners, shall, from Time to Time, be Entred in such Book, to be kept by the said Governor and Company, and after that shall be Filed with and kept by the said Registers of Deeds and Writings, in the said County of *Middlesex*.

Provided always, That in order to Enable the said Commissioners and Juries to Estimate and Ascertain such Satisfactions and Recompences, as aforesaid, it shall and may be Lawful, to and for the said Governor and Company, their Agents and Servants, from Time to Time, in the first Place, to measure, set out, and mark, such Grounds, Waters, Places, and Things, which they shall desire and intend to have, and make use of, for the Purposes aforesaid ; any Thing in this Act contained to the Contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Provided

Provided always, That if the said Governor and Company, for their own Expedition, shall pay and deposite in the Hands of such Person as the said Commissioners, or such or more of them, shall, in that Behalf, from Time to Time, appoint, so much Money as shall Amount, in the judgment or opinion of the said Commissioners, or such or more of them, to double the Value of what such Satisfaction or Recompence for such Grounds, Liberties, and Things, as the said Governor and Company shall so desire to have, and make use of, for the Purposes aforesaid, will probably, when so ascertained, Amount unto; to the Intent, that the Parties Concerned, or Interested, may have thereout, and be paid and satisfied, such their Satisfaction and Recompence, when the same shall be ascertained; together with Interest for the same, to be computed from the Time of making such Deposit, until the compleat Ascertaining thereof; then, and in such Case, it shall and may be Lawful, from Time to Time, to and for the said Governor and Company, their Workmen, Agents, and Servants, to proceed in their said Undertaking, and enter into such Grounds, and Places, and to dig, and cut the same, and to do all such Acts and Things, aforesaid, as they shall think will be convenient for the Effecting or Improving of the Water-works, and Purposes, aforesaid, or herein-mentioned; any Thing in this *Act* contained to the Contrary thereof notwithstanding.

And, as to such Damages as shall be done to or sustained by Mills standing on such Rivers, from which any Waters shall be drawn or taken, as aforesaid, **Be it hereby Enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That if the said Governor and Company will become Tenants thereof, at and for as much Yearly Rent as the same now are, or shall be reasonably Worth, to be Lett, (such Rent to be ascertained after the Manner herein-before directed, for ascertaining the Value of Lands, as aforesaid) then no such Satisfaction or Recompence, as aforesaid, shall be made or given to the Landlords of such Mills; but the said Commissioners, or such or more of them, shall Adjust, Settle, Arbitrate, and Order, reasonable Articles, Leases, and Terms, between such Landlords and the said Governor and Company, whereby the Landlords may be sufficiently secured their Rents and Repairs of such Mills; and whereby the said Governor and Company may have Power and Liberty to alter and dispose, or improve and meliorate, such Mills as shall be just and effectual; any Thing in this *Act* contained to the Contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Provided also, and **be it Enacted**, That in Case the Making and Perfecting, or Improving of such Water-works, shall damnify any Mill or Mills, or render any of such Mills useless; or, if it shall be found necessary, to demolish, or alter, any of them, by the said Governor and Company, then the Value or Recompence of or for such Mill or Mills, so damnified, rendred useless, or to be demolished, shall be Assessed, Ascertained, and Paid, in the Manner herein-before directed, for ascertaining the Value of Lands, as aforesaid.

And, as to such Mills as shall be altered by the said Governor and Company, if such Alteration shall meliorate such Mills, or render them as Good as they now be, or better, then no such Recompence or Satisfaction shall be given or paid for the same; but if such Alteration shall fail of rendring such Mills to be as good as they now be, or better, then such Damages to be done to, or sustained by such Mills, or the Proprietors or Tenants thereof, shall be Assessed or Ascertained, and Paid or Deposited, in the like Manner as herein-before is directed.

And, for the Enabling of the said Governor and Company, to make such Alterations, **Be it Enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That they, and their Successors, shall have the like Powers, as aforesaid, to turn, and alter, the Streams and Water-courses, leading or running to or from such Mills, and to make Dams, Walls, and other Things, in such Manner as shall in that Behalf be convenient or necessary, to meliorate such Mills, by making them Over-shot, or Breast Mills, or otherwise; and that such or the like Recompences or Satisfaction shall be agreed or assessed, and given, paid, or deposited; and all other Matters and Things shall be done and observed, as are in the like Cases above-directed.

And

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all Complaints of Parties grieved, by Injuries or Damages done, or occasioned, for want of Repairs of the said Water-courses, or the said Bridges, or Passages over the same, or otherwise; and also the said Governor and Company's Complaints, for Injuries or Damages done, or procured to be done, to such their Waters, Water-courses, or Water-works, or otherwise, shall be Heard, and finally Determined, by the said Commissioners, in a summary Way, as aforesaid; without any Appeal therefrom.

And moreover, That the said Governor and Company shall have Remedies, by Bill in the High Court of *Chancery*, and by Injunction, to quiet their Possessions, under the Powers given by this *Act*; and to have a Discovery, upon Oath, whether the Defendants, or who else did or procured, or caused to be done, the Trespasses, Injuries, and Damages, complained of; and shall have the Space of One Year, after such Discovery, to have and take their Remedy, to recover Satisfaction for the same, before the said Commissioners, as aforesaid, or by the ordinary Course of Law.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, shall and may, from Time to Time, have free Liberty, Power and Authority, without Molestation or Disturbance, by their Servants and Workmen, to lay Pipes from the said Water-works, and Branches, from the main Pipes, in or through any of the Streets, common Passages, Grounds, or Places, in *London* or *Westminster*, and the Parts lying about or near thereto, for Conveying of the said Water, to Serve and Supply the said Inhabitants therewith; and for that End, the Pavements and Grounds in all and every such Streets or Places, to break up, dig, and sink, for laying, amending, and repairing, of such Pipes or Branches; They, so soon as may be, filling up again the same Ground, and making good the Pavements.

Provided, **And be it Enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, that in Case the Inhabitants of any Buildings, now called, or to be hereafter called, *Squares*, or any other such-like Names, or of any Parish into which the said Governor and Company shall, by Force of this *Act*, bring or lay their Pipes, to serve Houses there with Water, or the Major Part of such Inhabitants shall be minded to have Pipes, to stand upright, in the likeness of Pumps, to be erected and set up, of any reasonable Height, to be ready, on all Occasions, to convey Waters into Engines, for the Extinguishing accidental Fires, and shall, by any Writing signify such their Minds and Intentions, to the said Governor and Company, in Writing; Then, and in such Case, the said Governor and Company, shall be, and are hereby obliged, at their own Charges, to erect and set up such Pipes, in such convenient Places, as such Inhabitants shall in that Behalf provide and appoint, ready to fill such Engines as shall be brought thereto, or otherwise to run so as to furnish Waters for the Extinguishing such accidental or unfortunate Fires; at and upon which Pipes, it shall be Lawful for the said Governor and Company, to fix and keep Locks, the Keys whereof shall be kept by the Church-Wardens of such Parish, and by such Person and Persons as by the said Inhabitants shall be in that behalf appointed.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person shall be sued at Law, for what shall be done in Pursuance of this *Act*, the Defendants may plead the General Issue, and give this *Act*, and the special Matter in Evidence; and if the Plaintiff shall become Nonsuited, or a Verdict pass against him, the Defendant shall recover Treble Costs, and have Execution for the same, in the usual Course.

And, to prevent all vexatious Proceedings, with the Inhabitants of *London* or *Westminster*, *Southwark*, and the Parts lying about or near thereto, **Be it Enacted**, by the Authority aforesaid, That the Pipes now or hereafter conveying Water into the Houses, Buildings, or other Places, for the Use of any such Inhabitants, shall not be cut off, or interrupted, for refusing to accept Leases of such Water, for any Term or limited Time above Two Years, from the Time of Granting such Leases respectively; or for any other Cause, excepting the Non-payment of their Rents for the same.

And

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor and Company, hereby Erected and Incorporated, shall be able and capable, in Law, to have, purchase, receive, possess, and enjoy, and retain Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Goods and Chattels, necessary to and for the effecting, continuing, and improving the said Undertaking, to them and their Successors; and also to give, grant, demise, alien, assign, and dispose of, such their Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Goods, or Chattels, and to do and execute all and singular other Things, that to them shall or may appertain to do or to be done; And that the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, by the Name aforesaid, may Plead and be Impleaded, Answer and be Answered, Defend and be Defended, in whatsoever Courts and Places, and before whatsoever Judges and Justices, and other Persons and Officers, in all and singular Actions, Pleas, Suits, Quarrels, Causes, and Demands, whatsoever, as any other of His Majesty's Subjects may or can Sue or be Sued, Answer or be Answered, Defend or be Defended; And that the said Governor and Company shall and may have and use a common Seal, to serve for all their Causes and Businesses, and the same Seal make, break, change, make new, and alter, as often as to them shall seem expedient; And shall have Power to make Orders and By-Laws, for the better ordering and managing of their Affairs; and that there shall be One of the said Company, who shall be called Governor; and One other who shall be called Sub-Governor; and One other who shall be called Deputy-Governor, of the said Company; and of the said Company, who shall be called Directors of the said Company; to be elected and appointed in such Manner as hereafter in this Act is expressed; which said Governor, Sub-Governor, or Deputy-Governor and Directors, for the Time being, or any of them, of whom the Governor, Sub-Governor or Deputy-Governor, to be One, shall be a Court of Directors, and be so called, and shall have the Direction, Ordering and Management, of the said Water-courses and Water-works, and of all Businesses, Affairs, and Things belonging to the said Company; except such Business as ought to be ordered and done, in and by the General Courts of the said Company, which shall be, from Time to Time, called, and shall meet for that Purpose; after the same, or the like-manner, as is appointed by Act of Parliament, Letters Patent, or otherwise to be done, in and by the Company, commonly called *The East-India Company*, in *London*; And that the said Undertakers and Subscribers, shall and may, at some Time, within the Space of Days after this Act shall pass the Royal Assent, Assemble themselves together, in some convenient Place in or near *London* or *Westminster*, of which reasonable Notice shall be given in the *London Gazette*; and being so met, shall and may then and there, by a Majority of Votes, according to the Directions herein-after contained, of those that shall so meet, elect and chuse One of themselves to be their first Governor, and one other of them to be their first Sub-Governor, and one other of them to be their first Deputy-Governor, and others of them to be their first Directors; which said Persons, so to be elected Governor, Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, shall be respectively Qualified in such Manner as herein-after is directed; and are to continue in their respective Offices and Places, until the Day of January, which shall be in the Year One thousand seven hundred and and until a New Governor, Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, and New Directors, shall be chosen, in Form hereafter in this Act expressed.

And be it further Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid; That the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, or the greatest Part of them, shall and may Yearly, for ever, between the Day and Day of January, in every Year, Assemble and Meet together, in some convenient Place, in or near *London* or *Westminster*; and that they, or the greatest Part of them, so assembled, shall and may elect One of the said Company to be Governor, and One other of them to be Sub-Governor, and One other of them to be Deputy-Governor, and others of the said Company, to be Directors of the said Company, for One Year, then next ensuing; or such other Time as the Governor and Company, at a General Court, to be Summoned and Assembled for that particular Purpose, shall order and appoint, and until others shall be chosen in their rooms; who shall and may accordingly execute the said Offices, or Places, for such Year or Time, having first taken their several Oaths, for the due Execution of their respective Offices or Places, before the last Governor, Sub-

Sub-Governor, or Deputy-Governor, and Directors, or any or more of them; which they are hereby Impowered to Administer; And if any such Governor, Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, or Director, happen to die, or be removed for just Cause, from his Office or Place, That then, and so often, it shall and may be Lawful, to and for the said Company, for the Time being, or the greater Part of them, assembled in a General Court, within Days after such Death or Removal, to Elect and Nominate One other in the Place of him so Dead or Removed, who shall and may have and exercise such Office and Place, so become Void, for the residue of the said Time; taking first a Corporal Oath, as aforesaid, before the Governor, Sub-Governor, or Deputy-Governor, and Directors, or any or more of them, which they are hereby Impowered to Administer.

Provided, and it is hereby Directed, That every Five Hundred Pounds of the said Joint-Stock, and no less, shall be, and be accounted, One Share thereof; and that no Person shall be capable to be Chosen or continue Governor, Sub-Governor, or Deputy-Governor, or Director of the said Company, unless such Governor, Sub-Governor, and Deputy-Governor, respectively, shall be solely Possessed of, in his own Right, and not in Trust for any other Shares of the said Joint-Stock; and unless such Director shall be solely Possessed of, in his own Right, and not in Trust for any other Shares of the said Joint-Stock; And that no Proprietor, not being solely Possessed of Two such Shares, or more, in his own Right, and not in Trust, shall have any Vote in any such Elections, or other Affairs, of the said Governor and Company; And that after the said first Election, above-directed, each Person, if thereunto required, by or more Members of the said Corporation, shall be obliged to take his or her Corporal Oath, for the discovery of his Qualification, above-described, before the Governor, Sub-Governor, or Deputy-Governor, of the said Company, for the Time being, which they respectively are hereby Impowered to Administer; And that no Proprietor shall, in any Case, have more than One Vote.

Provided always, That no Person or Persons, who shall become Intituled to any of such Shares, of or in the Part or Proportion of the said Joint-Stock, which, by Agreement between the said *Thomas Acherley*, and the said Subscribers or Undertakers, doth or may belong to him the said *Thomas Acherley*, his Executors, Administrators or Assigns, shall, in respect, or by means thereof, have any Vote or Votes in any of the Elections or Affairs of the said Company, until after the Day of *May*, One thousand seven hundred and thirty; Save only, that he the said *Thomas Acherley*, himself, is to have one Vote, and no more; and that each of them the said Governor, Sub-Governor, and Deputy-Governor, before he takes upon him the Execution of his said Office, shall take the said Oath for the due Execution of his Office, before the said Directors, or any or more of them; And all the said Directors shall respectively take the said Oath, before the said Governor; or in his Absence, before the said Sub-Governor; or in his Absence, before the Deputy-Governor; before they respectively take upon them the Execution of their respective Offices or Places; which Oaths the said Governor, Sub-Governor, or Deputy-Governor and Directors, are respectively Authorized to Administer, as aforesaid.

And it is hereby Declared and Enacted, That the Stock and Shares in the Joint-Stock of the said Company, shall be and be taken, and accounted Personal Estates, and go to the Executors or Administrators of the Owners thereof, and shall and may be transferred from any Person to another, in the same or the like manner, as Shares in the Joint-Stock of the said Company, commonly called *The East-India Company*, are and have been usually transferred.

And be it Enacted, That no Member of the said Company shall, in respect of his Stock therein only, be adjudged liable to be a Bankrupt, within the Intent or Meaning of all or any of the Statutes made against or concerning Bankrupts; and that no Stock in the said Company shall be subject or liable to any Foreign Attachment, by the Custom of the City of *London*, or otherwise.

Provided, That nothing in this *Act* contained, shall be construed or taken to hinder or obstruct the Company, commonly called *The Governor and Company of the New River*, brought from *Chadwell* and *Amwell* to *London*, or their Successors;

cessors; or the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of *London*, or their Lessees, or Assigns; or the Governor and Company of Undertakers, for raising the *Thames-Water* in *York-Buildings*; or the Proprietors or Lessees of *Marybone Water-works*; or the Proprietors of the Water-works, for raising of the *Thames-Water*, for the Use of the Inhabitants of the Parish of *St. Margaret's Westminster*; or the Proprietors of the Water-works, for raising of the *Thames-Water*, commonly called *Marchand's Water-works*, near *Charing-Cross*;

or any or either of them, or any Claiming by, from, or under them, or any of them, from holding, using, exercising, or enjoying, all such Rights, Titles, Estates, Interests, Privileges, Powers, and Advantages, whatsoever, which the said several and respective Companies and Persons, aforesaid, or any of them, at any Time hereafter, shall or may, or can, or ought, lawfully to Have, Hold, Claim, Use, Exercise, or Enjoy, by Force and Virtue of any Act or Acts of Parliament, or by Force or Virtue of any Letters Patents, under the Great Seal of *England*, heretofore made, or by any other lawful Ways or Means, now in being, whatsoever, as fully to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had never been made; any Thing herein-contained to the Contrary thereof in any-wise notwithstanding.

Provided also, and it is hereby Enacted, That the said Mayor and Commonalty, and Citizens of the City of *London*, their Lessees, or Assigns; or the said Governor and Company of the *New River*, brought from *Chadwell* and *Amwell* to *London*; or the said Governor and Company of Undertakers, for Raising the *Thames-Water* in *York-Buildings*; or the said Governor and Company of *St. Albion's Waters*, hereby Incorporated; or the said Proprietors or Lessees of *Marybone Water-works*; or the said Proprietors of the Water-works for Raising of the *Thames-Water*, for the Use of the Inhabitants of the Parish of *St. Margaret's Westminster*; or the said Proprietors of the Water-works, for Raising of the *Thames-Water*, commonly called *Marchand's Water-works*, near *Charing-Cross*;

shall not disturb, obstruct, or hinder one another, in Laying, or Repairing, and Amending their respective Pipes or Branches; nor do, or cause to be done, any wilful Prejudice or Damage to one another's Pipes or Branches.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That in Case any of the Members of the said Company, being Subscribers to the said Undertaking, or being Proprietors of any Share or Shares in the said Joint-Stock, shall neglect or refuse to Pay all such Sums of Money, by him, her, or them, or their Order, Subscribed to the said Undertaking, or so much thereof as shall be necessary for effecting the same, unto the said Governor and Company, or their Successors, for the Purposes aforesaid, in such Proportions, and at such Times, as the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, shall, from Time to Time, by Notice inserted in the *London Gazette*, then every such Member or Members of the said Company, so making Default, shall be wholly excluded, and shall lose all Benefit of such his Subscription or Shares, and of all such Monies as he, she, or they, in Pursuance of this Act, shall before such Default have so Advanced, Paid, and Contributed, in such Manner as the said Governor and Company, and their Successors, shall, from Time to Time, Order, Direct, and Appoint; and that Others shall and may be Admitted in the room or stead of such Defaulters, in such Manner as the said Governor and Company shall in like manner Order and Appoint; any Thing herein-contained to the Contrary thereof in any-wise notwithstanding.

And be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be deemed, and taken to be, a Publick Act; of which Notice shall by all Courts be Judicially taken; and that the same shall be beneficially expounded, for the Encouraging and speedy Effecting of the said Undertaking, for the Purposes aforesaid, and for the Continuing and Preserving thereof.

any Thing, whatsoever, as fully as all known and Purposed, as if this Act had been made; any Thing, which tends to the Contrary thereof in any-
wise notwithstanding.

The Tower Water Company Limited, Waterworks near Charing Cross; or the Proprietors of the Water-works, for Raising of the Tower-Water, for the Use of the Inhabitants of the Parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields; or the Proprietors of the Water-works, for Raising of the Tower-Water, for the Use of the Inhabitants of the Parishes of St. Andrew's Church, and St. Dunstons Church; or the said Mayor and Commonalty, and Citizens of the City of London, their Heirs, or Assigns; or the said Governor and Company of the New River, brought from Chadwell and Hertfordshire; or the said Governor and Company of Undertakers, for Raising the Tower-Water in a Conduit; or the said Governor and Company of St. Andrew's Church, jointly incorporated; or the said Proprietors or Heirs of the Tower-Water-works; or the said Proprietors of the Water-works for Raising of the Tower-Water, for the Use of the Inhabitants of the Parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields; or the said Proprietors of the Water-works, for Raising of the Tower-Water, commonly called Minster's Water-works, near Charing Cross;

**A BILL for Incorporating
several Undertakers, for the better
Accommodating the Inhabitants in
and about the Cities of London and
Westminster, and the Parts adja-
cent, with Water.**

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